Federal and State disaster assistance programs for the California wildfires are made available under Presidential declaration DR 1731-CA. Information regarding individual assistance programs is available by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Helpline at 1-800-621-3362 (TTY: 1-800-462-7585). Website: www.fema.gov

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

FEMA'S INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS PROGRAM:

For individuals and households to apply for Federal and State disaster assistance programs, or to check the status of your applications, call the FEMA Teleregistration and Helpline Number at **1-800-621-3362** (TTY: **1-800-462-7585**).

Housing Assistance: Provides financial and direct assistance to eligible homeowners and renters displaced from their pre-disaster primary residences.

Other Needs Assistance: Provides awards for other uninsured disaster-related necessary expenses and serious needs, including personal property, medical, dental, and transportation expenses.

SBA DISASTER LOANS TO RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES:

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) makes lowinterest disaster loans available to homeowners and renters, businesses of all sizes, and nonprofit organizations to repair or replace disaster-damaged property not fully covered by insurance.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. For small businesses only, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster.

For more information, call the SBA Customer Service Center at **1-800-659-2955** (TTY: **1-800-877-8339**) or visit SBA's website at www.sbs.gov/services/disasterassistance

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) can assist individuals in replacing DMV documents, such as drivers' licenses, identification cards, vehicle registration certificates or certificate of title that were lost in the fires. In addition, DMV can assist in filling out forms to change the status of vehicles that were damaged or destroyed as a result of the fires. Contact DMV at 1-800-921-1117 or 1-800-777-0133, or you can look up your local DMV office on the

following website: http://dmv.ca.gov/fo/offices/toc_fo.htm STATE SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS & HOUSEHOLDS:

Supplemental grants up to \$10,000 by the State may be available to eligible individuals and households who are unable to meet disaster-related necessary expenses and serious needs. These grants may be offered when assistance from FEMA's Individuals and Households Program has been maximized. Once maximized, your FEMA application is transferred to this program; there is no separate application process. Contact CA Department of Social Services, State Supplemental Grant Program 1-800-759-6807 (TTY: 1-800-822-6268).

SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM:

The Small Business Disaster Loan Guarantee Program helps agriculture-related enterprises and other small businesses obtain financing needed to recover from losses caused by natural disasters. For more information contact (916) 324-9538, or visit http://www.bth.ca.gov/agriculture/10-07fire.asp

LOANS TO FARMERS & RANCHERS:

Loans for owners of family-sized farms and ranches for the repair or restoration of disaster-damaged farm property and/or crop production losses. Loans can also be made to the tenant operators of family-sized farms for the loss of crops or limited production. Contact the county USDA Farm Service Agency listed in your local telephone directory.

ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL RESIDENTS:

Home Repair grants of up to \$7,500 may be available to very low-income senior citizens, and low-interest loans at 1% interest rate, with loan limits of \$20,000 to very low-income rural residents. Contact your county Rural Development Office.

CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs):

CalWORKs provides cash aid to eligible needy California families to help pay for housing, food, and other necessary expenses. For more information contact your local county welfare/social services department.

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM:

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program helps low-income pregnant women, new mothers and young children eat well and stay healthy. WIC provides:

- Special checks to buy healthy foods such as milk, juice, eggs, cheese;
- Information about nutrition and health:
- Breastfeeding support and referrals to health care and community services.

For more information, log on to www.wicworks.ca.gov and click on the box "find a WIC agency."

FOOD STAMPS:

The Food Stamp Program helps low-income people buy healthy food. You may request an application for food stamps by phone, in person, by fax, or by mail. For more information log on to www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps/

HEALTH CARE SERVICES CRISIS COUNSELING:

Short-term counseling may be available for emotional or mental health problems caused by the disaster. Contact your local mental health office.

MEDI-CAL HEALTH CARE:

This program provides comprehensive health, dental, and vision coverage to children and eligible adults with limited incomes. For more information, contact your local county welfare/social services department.

HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM:

This program provides low-cost comprehensive health, dental and vision coverage to eligible uninsured children and teens whose family income is too high to qualify for Medi-Cal. For more information, call **1-800-880-5305** or visit www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:

Administered by the California Employment Development Department (EDD). File for benefits online at www.edd.ca.gov

English: 1-800-300-5616; Spanish: 1-800-326-8937;

TTY: 1-800-815-9387

Provides weekly unemployment insurance payments for workers who lose their job through no fault of their own. If you are unemployed, or working less than full time, have a legal right to work in the United States, and are ready, willing, and able to work, you may be eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits. For more information, visit www.edd.ca.gov

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE:

Provides weekly benefit payments to those out of work due to the disaster, including self-employed persons and others not normally covered under regular unemployment insurance programs. This program also provides help in finding reemployment and job training. For more information, visit www.edd.ca.gov

JOB SERVICES:

The EDD provides job search service to job seekers with a legal right to work in the U.S. and connects them with thousands of available jobs through the automated system

CalJOBSSM. In addition, EDD facilitates job matches between eligible job seekers and employers. For more information, visit www.edd.ca.gov

EMERGENCY NEEDS REFERRAL

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS:

The American Red Cross provides emergency food, clothing, shelter, and medical assistance to needy individuals and families. Contact the American Red Cross at 1-866-GETINFO (438-4636) or 1-800-REDCROSS (733-2767).

THE SALVATION ARMY:

The Salvation Army provides a variety of services including help with food, household needs, clothing and personal needs. Contact the Salvation Army, Disaster Relief at **1-800-725-9005**.

TZU CHI FOUNDATION:

The Tzu Chi Foundation is supporting the fire recovery with:
1) case work based on needs; 2) special financial support;
3) manpower support based on needs; and 4) cross-cultural spiritual support. For information contact the Tzu Chi Foundation Southern California office at 626-281-3383.

TAX ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

To request extensions in filing tax returns or other assistance available to taxpayers and fee payers directly affected by the disaster.

CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

For questions regarding state payroll taxes, contact the Employment Development Department (EDD) at **1-888-745-3886**, (TTY: **1-800-547-9585**).

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD:

For questions regarding state income taxes, contact the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) at **1-800-852-5711**, (TTY: **1-800-822-6268**).

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE:

For questions regarding Federal income and payroll taxes, contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at **1-800-829-1040**, (TTY: **1-800-829-4059**).

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF EQUALIZATION:

For questions regarding sales and use, property and special taxes, contact the Board of Equalization (BOE) at **1-800-400-7115** (TTY: **1-800-735-2929**) or visit www.boe.ca.gov

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION:

Provides help in expediting delivery of checks delayed by the disaster and in applying for Social Security disability and

survivor benefits. Contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) at **1-800-772-1213**.

INSURANCE & REBUILDING INFORMATION CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE:

The California Department of Insurance can provide assistance on insurance issues and claims. Call the toll-free Consumer Hotline at **1-800-927-HELP (4357)** or visit www.insurance.ca.gov

CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD:

The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) is warning fire victims to beware of unscrupulous or unlicensed operators when hiring a contractor to repair or rebuild their home. CSLB provides guidance on verifying a contractor's license, investigates complaints, and also provides information about hiring a licensed contractor. For information on hiring or filing a complaint regarding a contractor, contact CSLB Disaster Hotline M-F from 8 a.m-5 p.m. at 1-800-962-1125, or 24-hour Automated Phone Response System 1-800-321-CSLB (2752). Licenses can also be checked online at www.cslb.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CALVET):

If you have a CALVET loan and have suffered damage caused by the Fire, contact the CALVET Claims Administrator at **1-800-626-1613 Ext. 0**, or CALVET at **1-800-952-5626**.

LEGAL SERVICES

DISASTER LEGAL SERVICES:

May provide assistance with: insurance claims; counseling on landlord/tenant issues; home repair contracts; consumer protection matters; counseling on mortgage foreclosure issues; replacement of wills and other important legal documents; drafting powers of attorney; estate administration; and referrals to other local and State agencies for additional assistance. Contact 1-866-636-9041.

(For individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speechdisabled, please call the California Relay Service at 711 and ask to be put in touch with the Office of Emergency Services at 916-845-8400.)

DR 1731-CA November 2007





Disaster Aid

For people affected by the California Firestorm

To apply for

disaster assistance call:

1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

(TTY 1-800-462-7585)

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Register online at:

www.fema.gov

For general information

Or to check on the status of your application

Call the HELPLINE:

1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

(TTY 1-800-462-7585)